

In the Claims

Claims are amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A network access unit for restricting user access to multicast signals transmitted on a local access network and comprising:
a port for receiving a channel-request from a user to join a multicast channel;
a multicast channel request vetting unit for vetting the request with respect to a predetermined list of permitted multicast channels for that user;
a transmitter for selectively forwarding the channel-request responsive to the vetting when the list comprises the requested multicast channel;
wherein the local access network is a shared medium access network.
2. (Original) A network access unit according to claim 1 additionally comprising:
a receiver arranged to receive control signals from a network head end for updating the permitted list.
3. (Currently Amended) A network access unit according to claim 1 additionally in which a time is associated with at least one multicast channel in the predetermined list of multicast channels and in which the multicast channel vetting unit vets a request for the at least one multicast channel with respect to the time.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) A network access unit according to claim 1 arranged to receive signals over an optical medium.
6. (Original) A customer premises equipment comprising a network access unit according to claim 1.

7. (Original) An optical access network comprising a network access unit according to claim 1.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of restricting user access to multicast signals transmitted on a local access network comprising the steps of:

receiving a channel-request to join a multicast channel from a user at a first port;

vetting the request with respect to a predetermined list of permitted multicast channels for the user; and

selectively forwarding the request responsive to the vetting when the list comprises the requested multicast channel,

wherein the local access network is a shared medium access network.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 additionally comprising the steps of:

receiving a control signal from a network head end;

updating the permitted list responsive to the control signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 where additionally comprising the steps of:

associating a time with at least one multicast channel in the predetermined list of channels; and

vetting the request with respect to the time.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 10 in which the channel request is carried in an IGMP message.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A use-of method of providing a secure multicast service over a shared medium access network, the method comprising:

using an IGMP vetting function in customer premises equipment to provide secure multicast over a network.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16 comprising using use-of an IGMP vetting function and a network receive address filter in said customer premises equipment to provide secure multicast over a network.

18. (Currently Amended) A program for a computer on a machine readable medium arranged to:

receive a channel-request to join a multicast channel over a shared access medium network from a user at a first port;

vet the request with respect to a predetermined list of permitted multicast channels for the user;

selectively forward the request responsive to the vetting when the list comprises the requested multicast channel.

19-21. (Canceled)